Effect of War with Pakistan on Tourism Industry

2508. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned through tourism during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the possibility of war with Pakistan has affected the tourism industry this year; and

(c) what is.the foreign exchange earned through tourism in the current year *viz-a-viz* last year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The foreign exchange earnings through tourism during the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 have been estimated as Rs.12951 crores, Rs. 14238 crores and Rs. 14344 crores respectively.

(b) Tourism in India has been affected mainly by the general economic slow down and the after effects of the terrorist attacks at various places.

(c) The estimated foreign exchange earnings through tourism during January—March 2002 have been Rs. 3673.50 crores as compared to Rs. 4164 crores earned during the same period of the year 2001.

Tourism potential in Rajasthan, Goa and Kerala

2509. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to increase tourism in States like Rajasthan, Goa and Kerala which are otherwise destinations for foreign tourists; and

(b) the details of number of tourists who visited these States during the last three years and targets for the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of

India provides financial assistance to the State Govcrnmcnt/UT Administrations every year in consultation with them for promotion of tourism in the country. The Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated the following short term and long term plans to encourage the foreign as well as domestic tourists in the country:—

(1) Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;

(2) Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;

(3) Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding **these** to meet new market requirements;

(4) Creation of world class infrastructure;

(5) Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes;

(6) Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism; and

(7). Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance and also of social and cultural values.

(b) The details of number of tourists who visited Rajasthan. Goa and Kerala during the last three years i.e. 1999 to 2001 arc as follows:—

	1999		2000		2001	
State	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic
Rajasthan	562685	6675528	623100	7374391	608283	7757217
Goa	284298	960114	291709	976804	260071	1047342
Kerala	202173	488X287	209933	5093221	208830	5240009

Department of Tourism, Government of India has not fixed any targets for next three years. ,